

Application/Control Number: 10/600,461
Art Unit: 1743
November 13, 2006
Page 2

In the Claims.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A disposable, single-use holder support for a sample container assembly for treating biological samples in cytocentrifuges, the sample container assembly being a unitary disposable plastic body comprising, as arranged in a mounting position in a cytocentrifuge, a vertical flat supporting base shaped as a flange for supporting by insertion thereof in said holder support the sample container assembly in an upright position upon mounting ~~thereof of the sample container assembly~~ in the cytocentrifuge, a wall protruding at right angles from ~~the said~~ supporting base, at least one funnel supported by the wall and provided in a lower region thereof with a corresponding horizontal connection channel extending along said wall and away from and perpendicularly to said flange shaped supporting base between the lower region of the funnel and the supporting base, a slide, and a filtering card [,] the disposable holder support being formed from a single element made of molded plastic material that is suitable to be detachably connected with the sample container assembly and comprising: a flat supporting body provided with edges that protrude therefrom so as to form a seat adapted to accommodate said slide, filtering card and supporting base of the sample container assembly; clamp means provided at said edges for detachably accommodating and retaining, in succession, the slide, the filtering card and the flange supporting base of the sample container; and a transverse pivot protruding from said supporting body for fixing the support to a cytocentrifuge, said supporting body, clamp means and transverse pivot of the holder support forming a monolithic structure of plastic material.

2. (previously presented) The support of claim 1, further comprising elastic means for taking up, upon accommodation of the slide, filtering card and container base, mounting plays, said elastic means being made monolithic with said supporting body in a region where the slide rests.

3. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein said protruding edges comprise

Application/Control Number: 10/600,461
Art Unit: 1743
November 13, 2006
Page 3

longitudinal edges and a protruding lower edge.

4. (original) The support of claim 3, comprising respective longitudinal channels formed at said longitudinal edges that connect the longitudinal edges to said supporting body.

5. (original) The support of claim 3, wherein said lower edge has at least one perpendicular containment tab.

6. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein said clamp means are constituted by two mutually opposite hook-shaped tabs, which are sized so as to retain between ends thereof and said supporting body the slide, the filtering card and the supporting base of the container, said hook-shaped tabs comprising respective levers that extend towards a rear part of said supporting body.

7. (original) The support of claim 2, wherein said elastic means for taking up the mounting plays is constituted by a longitudinal bridge element that protrudes from a part of the supporting base where said slide rests, said bridge element being shaped as a leaf spring.

8. (currently amended) A disposable, single-use holder support and sample container assembly for treating biological samples in cytocentrifuges, the holder support and the sample container assembly, respectively, being made independent from each other and detachably connectable in use, the sample container assembly being a unitary plastic body comprising, as arranged in a mounting position in a cytocentrifuge[,] : a sample container with a vertical flat, flange shaped supporting base suitable for insertion in the holder support for supporting the sample container assembly in an upright position upon mounting thereof in the cytocentrifuge, a slide, and a filtering card[,] ; the disposable holder support being a single monolithic molded plastic element that comprises: a flat supporting body provided with a lower edge and with longitudinal side edges that protrude therefrom so as to form a seat adapted to accommodate that detachably accommodates in use said slide, filtering card and flange shaped supporting base of the container; clamp means provided at formed on said side edges and at least one perpendicular containment tab formed on said lower edge, said clamp means and containment tab made monolithic with said flat supporting body of the holder support

Application/Control Number: 10/600,461
Art Unit: 1743
November 13, 2006
Page 4

therewith for detachably accommodating and retaining, in succession, the slide, the filtering card and the flange shaped base of the container; and a plastic transverse pivot protruding from said supporting body and made monolithic therewith for fixing the support to the cytocentrifuge.

9. (previously presented) The support of claim 8, further comprising elastic means for taking up, upon accommodation of the slide, filtering card and container base, mounting plays, said elastic means being made integral with said supporting body in a region where the slide rests.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The support of claim ~~9~~ 10, comprising respective longitudinal channels formed at said longitudinal edges that connect the longitudinal edges to said supporting body.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The support of claim 8, wherein said clamp means are constituted by two mutually opposite hook-shaped tabs, which are sized so as to retain between ends thereof and said supporting body the slide, the filtering card and the supporting base of the container, said hook-shaped tabs comprising respective levers that extend towards a rear part of said supporting body.

14. (previously presented) The support of claim 9, wherein said elastic means for taking up the mounting plays is constituted by a longitudinal bridge element that protrudes from a part of the supporting base where said slide rests, said bridge element being shaped as a leaf spring.

15. (currently amended) A disposable, single-use kit consisting in a unitary holder support and in a unitary sample container assembly for treating biological samples in cytocentrifuges, the unitary holder support and unitary sample container assembly being provided each as separate one piece body of plastic material that are detachably connectable to form the kit; the sample container assembly comprising: a container with a vertical flat, flange shaped supporting base suitable for insertion in the holder support that forms a single element made of molded plastic material, a slide, and a filtering card[.]; and the disposable support comprising: a flat supporting body

Application/Control Number: 10/600,461
Art Unit: 1743
November 13, 2006
Page 5

provided with edges that protrude therefrom so as to form a seat adapted to accommodate said slide, filtering card and supporting base of the container; clamp means provided at said edges which have levers adapted for finger actuation that produces an elastic flexing motion thereof such as to move apart the clamp means for accommodating and retaining, in succession, the slide, the filtering card and the base of the container; and a transverse pivot protruding from said supporting body for fixing the support to a cytocentrifuge, said disposable support with the supporting body, the clamp means, the levers and the transverse pivot thereof forming a single monolithic element molded in plastics.

16. (previously presented) The support of claim 15, further comprising elastic means for taking up, upon accommodation of the slide, filtering card and container base, mounting plays, said elastic means being made integral with said supporting body in a region where the slide rests.

17. (previously presented) The support of claim 15, wherein said protruding edges comprise longitudinal edges and a protruding lower edge.

18. (previously presented) The support of claim 17, wherein said lower edge has at least one perpendicular containment tab.

19. (previously presented) The support of claim 15, wherein said clamp means are constituted by two mutually opposite hook-shaped tabs, which are sized so as to retain between ends thereof and said supporting body the slide, the filtering card and the supporting base of the container, said hook-shaped tabs being each provided shaped integral with a respective one of said levers that extend towards a rear part of said supporting body.

20. (previously presented) The support of claim 16, wherein said elastic means for taking up the mounting plays is constituted by a longitudinal bridge element that protrudes from a part of the supporting base where said slide rests, said bridge element being shaped as a leaf spring.